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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,399	07/22/2002	Takanori Kamada	10921.118USWO	4956
7590 02/02/2007 Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C. P.O. BOX 2902-0902			EXAMINER	
			LUDLOW, JAN M	
Minnepolis, MN 55402			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	
SHORTENED STATUTOR	RY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MO	3 MONTHS 02/02/2007 PAP		PER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/089,399	KAMADA ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Jan M. Ludlow	1743				
The MAILING DATE of this communication a						
Period for Reply		•				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REF WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory peri - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by sta Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the ma earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	DATE OF THIS COMMUNIC 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a replied will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONT tute, cause the application to become ABA	ATION. ply be timely filed  HS from the mailing date of this communication. UNDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09	<u>November 2006</u> .	·				
2a) ☐ This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) ☐ T	This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b)⊠ This action is non-final.					
• •	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is					
closed in accordance with the practice unde	r Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D.	11, 453 O.G. 213.				
Disposition of Claims		·				
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1,2,6-10,12,13,16 and 18-20</u> is/are pending in the application.						
4a) Of the above claim(s) 8,10,18 and 19 is/s	4a) Of the above claim(s) 8,10,18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.						
	6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1,2,9,12,13,16 and 20</u> is/are rejected.					
7) Claim(s) <u>6 and 7</u> is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and	d/or election requirement.					
Application Papers						
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Exami	iner.					
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.						
Applicant may not request that any objection to the	Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).					
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).						
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the	Examiner. Note the attached	Office Action or form PTO-152.				
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119		•				
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for forei	gn priority under 35 U.S.C. 8	119(a)-(d) or (f).				
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:						
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.						
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No						
3. Copies of the certified copies of the property of the prope	riority documents have been r	eceived in this National Stage				
application from the International Bure						
* See the attached detailed Office action for a li	ist of the certified copies not re	eceived.				
Attachment(s)						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview Su					
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)		/Mail Date ormal Patent Application				
Paper No(s)/Mail Date	6) 🔲 Other:					

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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 9, 2006 has been entered.

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35
 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this
 Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
- 2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

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- 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
- 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
- 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
- 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
- 4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
- 5. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12-13, 16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-166886 (hereafter "JP").

JP teaches a chromatographic flow cell having a supply flow path 112, discharge flow path 116, a first intermediate flow path 120 and second intermediate flow path 114. The first intermediate flow path 120 intersects the second intermediate flow path 114 throughout a portion of the diameter of path 114 (see, e.g., Fig. 3), and therefore intersects at positions both aligned with and offset from the central axis of second intermediate flow path 114. Specifically, the center line of path 120 is offset from the central axis of path 114, and the depth (cross section) of path 120 is smaller than the diameter of 114, 112 and 116 as

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shown. A chromatographic system as claimed is shown in Figure 1. With respect to claims 14-15, it is the examiner's position that the apparatus of JP is structurally capable of the intended use recited.

6. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12-13, 16, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sugiyama (6122049).

Sugiyama teaches a chromatographic flow cell having a supply flow path 112, discharge flow path 116, a first intermediate flow path 120 and second intermediate flow path 114. The first intermediate flow path 120 intersects the second intermediate flow path 114 throughout a portion of the diameter of path 114 (see, e.g., Fig. 3), and therefore intersects at positions both aligned with and offset from the central axis of second intermediate flow path 114. Specifically, the center line of path 120 is offset from the central axis of path 114, and the depth (cross section) of path 120 is smaller than the diameter of 114, 112 and 116 as shown. A chromatographic system as claimed is shown in Figure 1. With respect to claims 14-15, it is the examiner's position that the apparatus of JP is structurally capable of the intended use recited.

- 7. Claims 6-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
- 8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: While Hrdina shows the tapered channels as in claims 6-7, there

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is no motivation to form the channels as now claimed in claim 1, as in original claim 11.

- 9. Applicant's arguments filed November 9, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
- 10. While the rejection over Hrdina is overcome, the deletion of the limitation found in original claims 3 and 17, which was added to claims 1 and 13 in the amendment filed March 1, 2006 to overcome JP and Sugiyama, necessitates the reinstatement of grounds of rejection originally made in the Office Action mailed October 3, 2005.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jan M. Ludlow whose telephone number is (571) 272-1260. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 11:30 am - 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jan M. Ludlow Primary Examiner Art Unit 1743

Jml January 29, 2007